Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NASA-01 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 /145 W

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O 271306Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2440 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 9908

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT: POSSIBLE INDIAN
RESOLUTIONS ON NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM AND NON-USE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: STATE 162758

1. I CALLED ON FONSEC MEHTA JUNE 27 AND AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL REQUESTED THAT GOI INSTRUCT IS SSOD DELEGATION NOT TO PRESS TO A VOTE THE RESOLUTIONS ON NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM AND NON-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FONSEC SAID RESOLUTIONS WOULD NOT BE PRESSED TO VOTE IF BROAD CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON DELCARATION DURING JUNE 27 SESSION. HE SAID PRIME MINISTER DESAI WAS MOST ANXIOUS THAT SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT NOT "END WITH A DAMP SQUIB" AND INDIANS HAD INTRODUCTED TWO RESOLUTIONS WITH A VIEW TO HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE GOI ATTACHES TO BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTING AND EVENTUAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACCORDING TO MEHTA GOI HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT SUBSTANCE OF RESOLUTIONS COULD BE USEFULLY DISCUSED SUBSEQUENTLY IN DELIBERATIVE COMMISSION BUT CHAIRMAN'S RULING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CUT OFF INTRODUCTION OF NEW RESOLUTIONS HAD PROMPTED INDIANS TO MOVE NOW. MEHTA THOUGHT DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS COULD STILL BE PUSHED OVER INTO DELIBERATIVE COMMISSION, ASSUMING CONSENSUS ON DECLARATION ARRIVED AT AN SSOD.

2. WHEN I CONTACTED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, HE TOLD ME HE HAD ALREADY MADE DEMARCHE

TO FONSEC ON AFTERNOON JUNE 26. AS I DID, HE STRESSED PROBLEM WE HAVE WITH)-,(35,9,-USE RESOLUTIONS AND ARGUED THAT VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS RAN COUNTER TO CONSENSUS PRINCIPLE. HE DID NOT, AS I DID, POINT OUT UNHELPFUL EFFECTS OF MORATORIUM RESOLUTION ON CURRENT EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. HE DID, HOEVER, EXPRESS HIS UNHAPPINESS OVER GOI UNWILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS IN DECLARATION, DRAWING MEHTA'S ATTENTION TO PM'S JUNE 9 SSOD SPEECH IN WHICH HE SAID "WE SHOULD THIS VERY YEAR BEGIN EFFORTS TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT ON DISARMAMENT AND DRASTIC REDUCTION OF ARMED STRENGTH IN THE CONVETNIONAL FIELD."

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